

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

FOR

1949.

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1949

Kidderminster Rural District Council

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR A. E. HALFORD, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR A. PARDOE

COUNCILLOR C. BLOUNT

„ E. EVANS
 „ H. DOOLITTLE
 „ T. GRIFFIN
 „ H. HINGLEY, J.P.
 „ A. E. HOBSON
 „ G. N. PERCIVAL-HUMPHRIES, J.P., C.C.
 „ G. LEE
 „ W. H. KIMBERLEE, J.P.
 „ G. F. PRATT
 „ E. SMITH
 „ J. WARDLE
 „ R. P. WILLIAMS
 „ T. O. WILSON

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

R. W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

R. S. PORTER, Cert.S.I.J.B., C.R.San.I.

(Cert. Meat & Foods Inspector)

Assistant : C. G. KNOTT

Public Health Clerk : MISS J. E. MANTLE

Rats & Mice Destruction Officer : J. BUNN

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
Kidderminster Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the
year 1949.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,790
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population mid 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,090
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,468
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£64,639
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£256

Social Conditions.

In the main the inhabitants of the district are engaged in agricultural and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed in industry in Kidderminster, and a number of males are employed at an Iron Works in the district.

Vital Statistics.

					1949	1948
Births					Total	Total
					Males	Females
(a)	Live Births : Legitimate	...	97	82	179	168
	Illegitimate	...	5	4	9	15
	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	...	16.9	17.18
	Birth rate for England and Wales			...	16.7	17.9
					Males	Females
(b)	Still Births : Legitimate	...	3	4	7	5
	Illegitimate	...	2	0	2	0
	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births)	...	...	...	45.7	26.5
Deaths					Males	Females
(a)	No. registered for District	...	65	45	110	80
	Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	9.9	7.5
	Death rate for England and Wales			...	11.7	10.8
(b)	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	18	15
	Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0	0
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0	0
	Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	0	1
(c)	Maternal Mortality—					
	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	0	0
	Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	1	0
(d)	Infant Mortality. Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	6	6
	Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age :					
	All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	37.2	32.7
	Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	50.3	23.8
	Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	0	113.3
	Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live births			...	32	34

Causes of Death.

						1949		1948	
						M.	F.	M.	F.
Typhoid Fever, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	3	-	2	-
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	1
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	11	7	5	10
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	1	-
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	6	7	4	3
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	14	9	17	10
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	-
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	5	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	1	-
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	2	-
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	2	-	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	-	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	-	3	1	-
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	-	1	-	-
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	4	-
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Other Violence	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	1	3
All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	3	3
Special Causes:—									
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
						<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
						65	45	47	33
						<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Staff.

I have the assistance and co-operation of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. S. Porter, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, and of Miss J. E. Mantle as Public Health Clerk.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Worcestershire County Council Laboratories are available for the examination of water, milk and foodstuffs, and the work is carried out by the County Analyst.

All clinical bacteriology is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, situated at Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Diseases an ambulance is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, and operates from Hayley Green Hospital.

For other cases an ambulance service is provided by the County Council, and operates from Kidderminster.

Nursing in the Home.

There are three District Nurses in the Area, who also practise as Midwives and act as Health Visitors. In addition two other District Nurses deal with portions of the Area.

Infant Welfare Centres.

There are four Infant Welfare Centres in the Area—at Far Forest, Wolverley, Cookley and Chaddesley Corbett.

The Welfare Centres at Wribbenhall and Hagley are also used by residents of the Area.

Hospitals.

The Kidderminster and District General Hospital is available for all residents in our Area.

For Infectious Diseases the Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green is available.

Tuberculosis.

This work is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, who arrange sanatorium treatment where possible. A dispensary is held every Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Kidderminster General Hospital, when Dr. R. Cronin attends.

The County Council are responsible for after-care and this work is administered locally by the After-Care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Committee.

Venereal Disease.

The Regional Hospital Board arrange for treatment and follow-up of these cases at the Kidderminster General Hospital.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The Council own approximately sixty miles of water pipes, and the water in the Rural District is supplied by:—

- (1) The Councils' Borehole at Cookley.
- (2) The City of Birmingham Elan Aqueduct.
- (3) The Stourbridge Water Board.

The supply is satisfactory both in regard to quality and quantity.

Number of Houses Supplied from Public Mains.

Parish	No. of house supplied from stand taps	No. of houses supplied direct from mains
Wolverley	213	711
Upper Arley	19	70
Ribbesford	—	6
Churchill and Blakedown	5	295
Rock	38	311
Broom	—	40
Stone	—	72
Rushock	—	—
Kidderminster Foreign ..	207	58
Chaddesley Corbett ..	17	328
Total	499	1,891

The above figures are approximate. Included in the 499 houses supplied from stand taps are several areas of bungalow development and a "squatters" camp.

At regular intervals throughout the year the Sanitary Inspector submitted samples of water from the three main sources for chemical and bacteriological examination by the County Analyst. All the samples were satisfactory. The following are copies of the Analyst's Certificates on three samples submitted to him.

Report of the County Analyst.

Upon a sample of Borehole water contained in W. Qt. and 8 oz. Bottles. Marked Council's Borehole, Cookley. Received from Mr. R. S. Porter, Sanitary Inspector, Land Oak House, Kidderminster, on the 27th October, 1949.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically and bacteriologically with the following results:—

Physical Characters. Clear.

Odour. None.

Deposit. None. pH 7.9.

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C)	...	...	...	None
Solids in Solution (dried at 100°C)	...	...	...	20
„ „ „ after Ignition	...	...	...	16
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	...	2.0
Hardness Permanent )	...	...	...	4
„ Temporary )	...	...	...	11
„ Total )	...	...	...	15
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0016
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0008
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...	0.8
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	...	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	...	...	...	0.026
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None detected

Note.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar.

(a) In two days at 37°C ... 1 per one m.l.

(b) In three days at 22°C ... 5 „ „ „

Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) count ... Nil „ 100 „

Opinion:—The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) M. M. LOVE,

County Analyst.

8th November, 1949

Report of the County Analyst.

Upon a sample of Elan Valley Supply Water contained in W. Qt. and 8 oz. Bottles. Marked Agricultural Cottages, Trimpley. Received from Mr. R. S. Porter, Sanitary Inspector, Land Oak House, Kidderminster, on 6th October, 1949.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically and bacteriologically with the following results:—

Physical Characters. Clear.

Odour. None.

Deposit. Slight Brown. pH 8.2.

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C)	...	...	...	Trace
Solids in Solution (dried at 100°C)	...	...	...	6
„ „ „ after Ignition	...	...	...	4
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	...	1.6
Hardness Permanent	...	...	...	1
„ Temporary	...	...	...	2
„ Total	...	...	...	3
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.002
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0076
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...	None
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	...	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	...	...	...	0.14
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None detected

Note.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar.

(a) In two days at 37°C 10 per one m.l.

(b) In three days at 22°C 40 „ „ „

Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) count ... Nil „ 100 „

Opinion:—The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) M. M. LOVE,

County Analyst.

20th October, 1949

Report of the County Analyst.

Upon a sample of Stourbridge Water Board water contained in W. Qt. and 8 oz. Bottles. Marked Belbroughton Road, Blake-down. Received from Mr. R. S. Porter, Sanitary Inspector, Land Oak House, Kidderminster, on 6th October, 1949.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically and bacteriologically with the following results:—

Physical Characters. Clear.

Odour. None.

Deposit. Slight Brown. pH 7.5.

Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C) Trace

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Solution (dried at 100°C) 33

„ „ „ after Ignition 29

Chlorides calculated as Common Salt 4.3

Hardness Permanent 5

„ Temporary 14

„ Total 19

Free and Saline Ammonia 0.0024

Albuminoid Ammonia 0.0004

Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates) 0.13

Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C 0.013

Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites) None

Toxic Metals None detected

Note.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar.

(a) In two days at 37°C 15 per one m.l.

(b) In three days at 22°C 50 „ „

Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) count ... Nil „ 100 „

Opinion:—The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) M. M. LOVE,
County Analyst.

21st October, 1949

Drainage and Sewerage.

The scheme for the Fairfield Area of Wolverley has been completed and the majority of houses along the line of the sewers have been connected. The installation of this system has abated many long-standing serious nuisances in this part of the Parish.

It is hoped that the year 1950 will see the approval of the main scheme for the villages of Wolverley and Cookley, where conditions remain very bad in spite of all our efforts.

In Chaddesley Corbett, sanitary conditions still give rise to anxiety and I hope that the Council's proposed scheme will receive approval at an early date.

In the meantime a cesspool emptying vehicle is being hired for use in these areas on behalf of the owners concerned, but it is apparent that in view of the size of the problem this can only be a palliative measure.

Rivers and Streams.

The condition of most streams and water courses in the area remains as reported last year, and little improvement can be expected until the Council's sewerage schemes have been completed.

However, the River Stour has shown signs of improvement for the first time since the early years of the century. I feel that the remaining sources of pollution, which appear to be industrial, could be materially reduced and even eradicated by appropriate combined action by all the authorities concerned.

Schools.

The general condition of the school buildings is reasonably satisfactory. The majority of the schools are connected with the Council's water supply, but the sanitary arrangements are much below standard, and little effective improvement can be made until proper sewers are available in the villages concerned.

There were no school closures during the year.

HOUSING

STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1)(a)	Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	761
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	802
(2)(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	106
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	121
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	106

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	180
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:—	
(a)	By Owners	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:	
(a)	By Owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been made fit	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding.

Although there is still a considerable degree of overcrowding in the Area, the year has seen some improvement, due to the Council's Housing Programme, but it is obvious that the present speed of erection of houses is not keeping pace with the demand, as shown by the following figures:—

No. of Applications 1st January, 1949 ...	594
No. of houses erected during the year ...	74
No. of Applications 31st December, 1949 ...	525

The reduction in the number of applications resulted from the Ministry of Health Survey made in the early part of the year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report deals with these matters.

The Food and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Council.

There were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning during the year.

**Prevalence of and Control over Infectious & Other Diseases.
Immunisation against Diphtheria.**

The importance of early immunisation of infants against diphtheria, and the necessity for a reinforcing dose on entering school, has been brought to the notice of all parents. The response has been fairly satisfactory, but there is still room for improvement.

A further 82 children under 5 years and 14 children from 5 to 14 years of age were given primary courses of treatment during the year, and 112 were given booster doses.

Notifications.

The notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) which occurred during the year 1949 are set out in the following table.

AGE IN YEARS												
Disease	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	over 65	Total No. of cases	No. of cases admitted to hosp'l	No.of deaths
Measles	3	20	23	36	1	2	4	—	—	89	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	5	13	11	21	2	—	—	—	—	52	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	2	8	4	1	—	—	—	15	6	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	5	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	2	—	3	2	2	4	13	—	6
Poliomyelitis ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Total	9	34	36	67	7	6	7	4	6	176	8	7

Tuberculosis.

Seven cases were notified during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	5	—	—	2	3	—	—	—

It was not necessary to take any action under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations) 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

CONCLUSION.

Despite the relatively good progress made by the Council with their Housing Programme, lack of proper accommodation remains the most serious problem in the district. A large number of families continue to live under most unsatisfactory conditions and will have to continue to do so for some considerable period of time, unless some method can be found of accelerating the erection of new houses. There is little doubt that many domestic problems and much ill-health, physical and mental, would not arise if these families had a proper home to themselves.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and all Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

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Sanitary Inspector

FOR

1949

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the
Kidderminster Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration within the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Number of visits made to premises re cases of infectious disease and disinfection : 32.

Disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out where necessary by means of disinfectant and formaldehyde lamps.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Special attention has been paid during the year to the supervision of catering establishments, which have greatly increased in numbers since the war. All possible steps have been taken to enlighten persons engaged in the handling of food as to the possible spread of infection by dirty or careless methods.

It is pleasing to be able to report that the standard maintained by the trade has been very good and the spirit of co-operation with your officials excellent.

MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTION.

Whilst it is unfortunate that, compared with pre-war standards, the quality of meat supplied to this area, in common with the rest of the country, leaves much to be desired, it is to the credit of the Butchers that they still make every effort to distribute their supplies under hygienic conditions.

There has been no necessity to draw their attention to any contraventions of the regulations.

The following was condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year:—

Bacon 10½ lbs.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Number of unexpired licences in force	21
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BAKEHOUSES.

Number on register, December. 1949	8
Inspections	24
Informal Notices served	Nil
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	Nil

Contraventions Remedied:—

Limewashing	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dirty Floors	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

CANAL BOATS.

Number of boats inspected during 1949	...	...	4
Number of boats conforming to the Acts and Regulations	...	...	4
Number of boats infringing the Acts and Regulations	...	...	Nil
Total number for which the cabins were registered	...	...	8
Total number occupying the cabins	...	...	8

Details of Occupants:—

Male Adults	...	...	...	...	8
Female Adults	...	...	...	...	Nil
Children of School Age	...	...	...	...	Nil
Children under School Age	...	...	...	...	Nil

It is sad to record that the once busy canal which passes through Wolverley and Cookley is now practically unused. Of the few remaining boats which still ply their trade all are manned by male crews. The "family" boat seems, for good or bad, to be a thing of the past in this area.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The Council have reason to be pleased with the work achieved by the extended scavenging system. With the exception of isolated properties, the occupiers of which quite willingly deal with their own refuse, the built-up areas are collected once a fortnight and the remainder once monthly. There have been very few complaints during the year and all have been promptly dealt with. The only problems which remain are the degree to which the fortnightly service should be extended and the service to be provided for the areas which have a considerable degree of development by erections of the "week-end" type.

During the year a total of 1,637 loads having an estimated weight of 4,911 tons have been dealt with. The following are the details of the work done by each lorry.

The Council's lorry is dealing with the parishes of Churchill and Blakedown, Broom and part of Wolverley.

Tipped at Wolverley	...	...	...	636 loads
Tipped at Woodrow	...	...	...	74 loads
				<hr/> 710 loads <hr/>

Estimated weight : 2,130 tons.

One contractor's lorry is dealing with the parishes of Chad-desley Corbett, Stone, Rushock, and part of Wolverley.

Tipped at Wolverley	...	...	...	161 loads
Tipped at Lodgeford	...	...	...	303 loads
Tipped at Woodrow	...	...	...	53 loads
				<hr/> 517 loads <hr/>

Estimated weight : 1,551 tons.

A second contractor has been dealing with the parishes of Rock, Upper Arley, Kidderminster Foreign and Ribbesford.

Tipped at Bransley Farm, Rock	...	...	...	37 loads
Tipped at Chapel Lane, Rock	...	...	...	130 loads
Tipped at Gorst Hill Farm, Rock	...	...	...	56 loads
Tipped at Trimpley	...	...	...	169 loads
Tipped at Wolverley	...	...	...	18 loads
				<hr/> 410 loads <hr/>

Estimated weight : 1,230 tons.

Night Soil Collection

A weekly collection of night soil is made from Chaddeley Corbett Village. The work is done by a local contractor, who uses a motor lorry provided with suitable bins for the carriage of the night soil.

The Council's proposed Sewerage Scheme for the village will render this service unnecessary, but as a temporary measure the system is as efficient as possible.

Number of pail closets emptied per week : 81

Cesspools

Pending the installation of the Council's proposed sewers, nuisances from overflowing cesspools have again been dealt with by the use of a hired cesspool emptying vehicle. 79 cesspools have been emptied at the owners' expense, and the service has proved of great value.

CAMPING SITES.

Number of large sites which were used for camping purposes (approximately)	...	...	...	22
Number of sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	2
Estimated number of campers resident in the Area at any one time during the summer, 1949	...	...	...	2500
Inspections made	...	...	...	82

A very pleasing feature of this particular branch of our work is the vast improvement in camping methods shown by the very large number of town dwellers who take this form of holiday. Compared with pre-war days they show a much more intelligent appreciation of the necessity for organised sanitation and care of the camping sites. The organised youth camps in the area were excellent examples of this.

WATER SUPPLY.**General**

Number of samples submitted for analysis	...	...	38
Number of samples found to be unfit or unsuitable			8
Number of samples found to be fit	...	...	30

Council's Borehole, Cookley

Number of samples submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination	...	...	...	13
Number of samples found to be of good quality and fit for drinking	...	...	...	13

The water from the Borehole shows little variation in physical character and chemical composition.

For specimens of Analyst's Reports see Medical Officer of Health's Report.

HOUSING.

The advantage of placing the duty of the supervision of house letting in the hands of the Health Department has been very apparent during the year. Working in close harmony with the Medical Officer of Health many problems of public health and housing have been dealt with, and it is obvious that the conditions under which so many people are living at the present time make it essential that the help and advice of such a department should be available at all times.

In erecting 186 houses since the end of the war the Council have reason to be pleased, but not satisfied, with their progress. In common with the remainder of the country the number of houses erected is falling far short of the demand.

The situation at the end of the year is shown in the following table:—

Parish	No. of houses let	No. of houses occupied	No. of Applications	Service and Ex-Servicemen		Others		Farm Workers	Waiting to get married	Aged
				With homes	In rooms	In rooms	With homes			
Rock ..	23	23	56	5	17	8	4	11	4	7
Stone ..	15	15	35	7	8	2	4	11	2	1
Arley ..	4	4	22	3	7	5	2	4	—	1
Kidderminster Foreign ..	8	8	15	3	6	1	3	1	1	—
Wolverley ..	35	27	96	13	37	14	12	8	4	8
Cookley ..	45	45	104	26	29	11	19	8	2	9
Churchill and Blakedown and Broom ..	30	30	57	12	15	1	9	10	4	6
Chaddesley Corbett ..	32	32	64	4	14	6	13	19	1	7
Rushock ..	1	1	9	1	—	1	—	6	—	1
Out of K.R.D.	1	1	67	5	35	4	1	4	4	14
Total ..	194	186	525	79	168	221	67	*82	22	54

* Including applications by Employers.

It will be observed that there are 182 families living in rooms in the area and applications from this section of the public are increasing week by week. Of the 140 applications from persons with homes, a large proportion are living in houses scheduled for demolition and until the programme of house building can be accelerated, they will have to continue living in these circumstances.

The Council are doing everything they can to increase the rate of building, but have to meet with many difficulties.

COMPLAINTS.

Number of complaints received	541
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Summary of Complaints.

Housing Defects	102
Defective and choked drainage	171
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	268

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1949.

Particulars of Visits and Inspections are as follows:—

Number of premises inspected	...	2301
Bakehouses	...	24
Canal Boats	...	6
Caravans and Movable Dwellings	...	102
Dairies	...	82
Fried Fish Premises	...	14
Infectious Disease	...	32
Overcrowding	...	506
Premises where animals are kept	...	49
Schools	...	8
Water Courses	...	78
Water Supply	...	140
Workshops	...	2
Provision of Dustbins	...	181
Miscellaneous	...	761
Refuse Collection	...	1206

SANITARY WORK.**Interior of Houses**

Dirty houses improved and cleansed by tenant	...	9
Verminous houses dealt with	... ..	4

Yards and Outbuildings

Rainwater cisterns and pumps repaired or cleansed	...	1
Dirty yards and W.C.'s cleansed by tenants	... ..	28
Offensive accumulations removed from yards, etc.	...	478

Drainage

Yard gullies cleansed by tenants	... ..	46
Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	...	107
Defective drains repaired	... ..	94
New drains provided	... ..	36
Glazed stoneware gullies provided	... ..	72
Inspection chambers provided to drains	... ..	36
Overflowing cesspools cleansed and repaired	...	408
Inspection chambers repaired and provided with new air-tight covers	... ..	26
Glazed sinks provided	... ..	12
Cesspools abolished	... ..	23

Water Closets.

New Water Closets erected	... ..	9
Additional W.C.'s provided	... ..	2
Foul and obstructed W.C.'s cleansed	... ..	72
New W.C. cisterns provided, others repaired	...	14
Water Closets repaired	... ..	42
Water Closets provided with new basins and traps		2
Defective water supply to W.C.'s remedied (burst water pipes, defective ball valves, etc.)	...	102

Conversions:—

Conversion of privies to W.C.'s	1
Conversion of pail closets to W.C.'s	3

Urinals

Urinals cleansed and repaired	3
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Privies and Pail Closets

New pans provided to pail closets	62
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Ashpits and Dustbins

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins	...	89
Insanitary conditions of dustbins cleansed by tenants		16
Ashpits abolished	... ..	7

Various

Nuisances from improper keeping of animals	...	12
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	...	97
Miscellaneous nuisances dealt with	... ..	302
Nuisances on highways	... ..	1

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919

Infestation Order, 1943

Appended herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

No. of visits	... ..	1505
Premises found to be infested	... ..	200
Premises treated with Zinc Phosphide	... ..	52
Premises treated with Red Squill	... ..	148

Sewers

Acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the sewers at Blakedown were test baited during the year with satisfactory results.

Worcestershire War Agricultural Executive Committee

The co-operation between this Committee and ourselves has been excellent and our thanks are due to all concerned.

Worcestershire Planning and Advisory Committee.

I am pleased to be able to report that this Committee has done very useful work during the year.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, may I express my thanks for the interest and support given me by the whole of the Council during the year.

I would also express my appreciation of the willing co-operation which I have received from the Clerk, Mr. J. H. Swann, the Surveyor, Mr. A. S. Northover, the Rating Officer, Miss I. M. Mountford, and the whole of the Council's staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. PORTER,

Sanitary Inspector.
